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ABSTRACT

The use of health and social services is influenced by economic, community, geographic, organizational, societal, and environmental factors. A study was conducted to examine predisposing, enabling, and need-for-care factors related to the use of home health care services by a stratified random sample of 400 older adults. Predisposing factors included age, sex, race, and employment status. Enabling factors included knowledge of home health care agencies and the type of insurance coverage available to the individual. Need-for-care variables included health status, illness-induced limitations of daily living activities, use of health appliances (walker, cane), and whether the individual stated a need for services. Respondents completed a selection of items from the Older Americans Resources and Services Functional Assessment Questionnaire, the Philadelphia Geriatric Center Multi-Level Assessment Instrument, and other items related to home health care. Results of the study revealed five variables which directly affected the use of home health services by the elderly: need for service, employment of health care appliances, limited activity due to illness, type of medical insurance coverage, and age. The findings suggest that people who express a need for home health care services and have knowledge of them tend to use services, and that others who have disabling conditions also will use the services independent of expressed need for services. Four pages of references conclude the document. (NRB)

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CORRELATES OF HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES USE AMONG THE ELDERLY

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INTRODUCTION

FACTORS EXPLAINING THE USE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN WIDELY STUDIED AND IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT UTILIZATION OF SERVICES ARE PARTIALLY DETERMINED BY VARIOUS SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS (SHANAS, 1962; SHANAS ET AL, 1968; MCKINLAY, 1972; NEUGARTEN, 1974; MINDEL AND WRIGHT, 1982). OTHER STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS INFLUENCE USE (COE AND WESSON, 1965; BATTISTELL, 1968; ANDERSEN AND NEWMAN, 1973; BENNETT AND ECKMAN, 1973; HARRIS, 1975). MORE RECENT STUDIES SUGGEST A WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY, GEOGRAPHIC, ORGANIZATIONAL, SOCIETAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ARE RELATED TO USE (PALMORE, 1972; HAMMERMAN, 1974; CUTLER, 1975; CANTOR, 1975; WARD, 1977).

FROM A CONCEPTUAL STANDPOINT A USEFUL MODEL TO CATEGORIZE THE MYRIAD OF CORELATES OF USE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IS THE ONE SUGGESTED ORIGINALLY BY ANDERSEN AND NEWMAN (1973) AND MODIFIED BY OTHERS, ESPECIALLY WARD (1977) FOR STUDYING THE SERVICE USE BEHAVIOR OF THE ELDERLY. THIS MODEL CONCEPTUALIZES AN INDIVIDUAL'S DEMAND FOR SERVICES AS A FUNCTION OF A COMPLEX PATTERN OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG "PREDISPOSING", "ENABLING", AND "NEED-FOR-CARE" FACTORS. IT SUGGESTS THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE PREDISPOSED TO USE SERVICES BASED ON CERTAIN BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES, SOCIAL STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS (PREDISPOSING FACTOR). ADDITIONALLY, ALTHOUGH PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT PROPENSITIES TO ACQUIRE SERVICES, THE USE OF THESE SERVICES IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THESE RESOURCES (ENABLING FACTOR). FURTHER, ASSUMING THE FOREGOING CONDITIONS EXIST THE INDIVIDUAL MUST RECOGNIZE THAT HE OR SHE NEEDS SERVICES AND BE MOTIVATED TO TAKE SOME FORM OF FORMAL ACTION BEFORE HE OR SHE CAN ACTUALLY USE A SERVICE

(NEED-FOR-CARE FACTOR).

THIS STUDY EXAMINES THE USE OF HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES BY A SAMPLE OF ELDERLY IN OHIO. WITH INCREASING MEDICAL COSTS AND THE IMPOSITION OF COST CONSTRAINTS ON HOSPITALS HOME HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE AN EVER INCREASING COMPONENT OF THE CONTINUITY OF CARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY. THIS RESEARCH IS AN ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE SOME OF THE FACTORS WHICH ACCOUNT FOR THE USE OF HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES BY THE ELDERLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE "PREDISPOSING, ENABLING, AND NEED-FOR-CARE" MODEL SUGGESTED ABOVE.

VARIABLES STUDIED

CHARACTERISTICS THAT REPRESENTED PREDISPOSING PROPENSITIES WERE AGE, SEX, RACE, AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS. VARIABLES THAT WERE CONSIDERED TO BE WITHIN THE ENABLING FACTOR WERE KNOWLEDGE OF HOME HEALTH CARE AGENCIES AND THE TYPE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL. NEED FOR CARE VARIABLES INCLUDED HEALTH STATUS, WHETHER ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING WERE LIMITED DUE TO ILLNESS, WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL USE VARIOUS HEALTH APPLIANCES (E.G. WALKER, CANE), AND WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL STATED A NEED FOR SERVICES.

METHODS

DATA

THIS DATA IN THIS STUDY WERE COLLECTED IN 1984 AS PART OF A STUDY ENTITLED, "SENIOR CITIZENS NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO: IMPLICATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE PLANNING" (RICHARD A. STARRETT, PH.D., PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR) THE DATA WERE COLLECTED BY THE TOLEDO HOSPITAL USING A COUNTY WIDE STRATIFIED RANDOM SAMPLE OF 400 LUCAS COUNTY INDIVIDUALS AGE 65 OR OVER. THE SAMPLE WAS STRATIFIED BY AGE, SEX, AND ZIPCODE TO ASSURE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF ELDERLY. THE SAMPLING ERROR WAS APPROXIMATELY 5%.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

APPROXIMATELY 63% OF THE SAMPLE WAS BETWEEN 65-74; 37% WERE 75 OR OVER. SIXTY-TWO PERCENT WERE FEMALE AND 38% WERE MALE. RACIALLY, 93.4% WERE WHITE, 6.3% WERE BLACK AND .3% HISPANIC. WITH RESPECT TO MARITAL STATUS 51% WERE MARRIED, 39.2% WIDOWED, 4.5% NEVER MARRIED, 4.3% DIVORCED, AND 1% SEPARATED. THE MEAN EDUCATION LEVEL WAS 12 YEARS.

MEASUREMENT

THE INSTRUMENT USED FOR THE DATA COLLECTION WAS A SELECTION OF ITEMS FROM THE OLDER AMERICANS RESOURCE AND SERVICE- FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE (OARS), THE PHILADELPHIA GERIATRIC CENTER MULTI-LEVEL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (MAI) AND OTHER ADDITIONAL ITEMS CONCERNING HOME HEALTH CARE AND OTHER ISSUES. THE ITEMS USED IN THIS REPORT ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1 ACCORDING TO WHETHER THEY WERE PREDISPOSING, ENABLING, OR NEED-FOR-CARE VARIABLES.

FINDINGS

THE HYPOTHESIZED CAUSAL MODEL OF HOME HEALTH CARE USE BY THE LUCAS COUNTY ELDERLY ARE SHOWN IN FIGURE 1. THE ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS FOR ALL THE STUDY VARIABLES WITH THEIR MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 2. THE BASIC MODEL WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A SERIES OF STRUCTURAL EQUATIONS FROM WHICH STANDARDIZED PARTIAL REGRESSION EQUATIONS WERE ESTIMATED. THE FINAL RESULTS ARE ILLUSTRATED IN THE PATH DIAGRAM IN FIGURE 2. THE DECOMPOSED ZERO-ORDER COEFFICIENTS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3. ONLY PATHS THAT WERE BOTH SIGNIFICANT AT THE .05 LEVEL AND EXPLAINED AT LEAST 1% OF THE VARIANCE WERE RETAINED IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS.

THE FINDINGS INDICATE THAT FIVE OF THE ELEVEN VARIABLES EMPLOYED IN THE STUDY DIRECTLY AFFECTED THE UTILIZATION OF HOME HEALTH SERVICES BY THE LUCAS COUNTY ELDERLY. THESE FIVE VARIABLES, I.E., NEED FOR SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT OF HEALTH CARE APPLIANCES, LIMITED ACTIVITY DUE TO RECENT ILLNESS, TYPE OF MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND AGE JOINTLY ACCOUNTED FOR 22% OF THE VARIANCE IN USE OF HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE NEED FOR HOME HEALTH CARE (PATH COEFFICIENT = .29) HAD THE STRONGEST AFFECT ON USE, FOLLOWED BY LIMITATION OF ACTIVITY DUE TO RECENT ILLNESS (.18), EMPLOYMENT OF HEALTH AIDS (.16), INSURANCE COVERAGE (.16), AND AGE (.10). THESE FIVE VARIABLES ALSO SERVED AS IMPORTANT INTERVENING VARIABLES FOR THE INDIRECT EFFECTS OF THE OTHER VARIABLES IN THE MODEL.

THE FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT WHILE THOSE WHO EXPRESS A NEED FOR HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THEM TEND TO USE THE SERVICES, OTHERS WHO HAVE DISABLING CONDITIONS SUCH THAT THEY NEED TO USE CANES, WALKERS, ETC. OR WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED DUE TO ILLNESS ALSO WILL USE THE SERVICES INDEPENDENT OF EXPRESSED NEED FOR THE SERVICES. POOR HEALTH

IN ITSELF WAS NOT RELATED TO THE USE OF THESE SERVICES RATHER THE DISABLING NATURE OF THE ILLNESS AND THE ACCESS TO THE INSURANCE THAT MIGHT PAY FOR IT.

MALE (1)

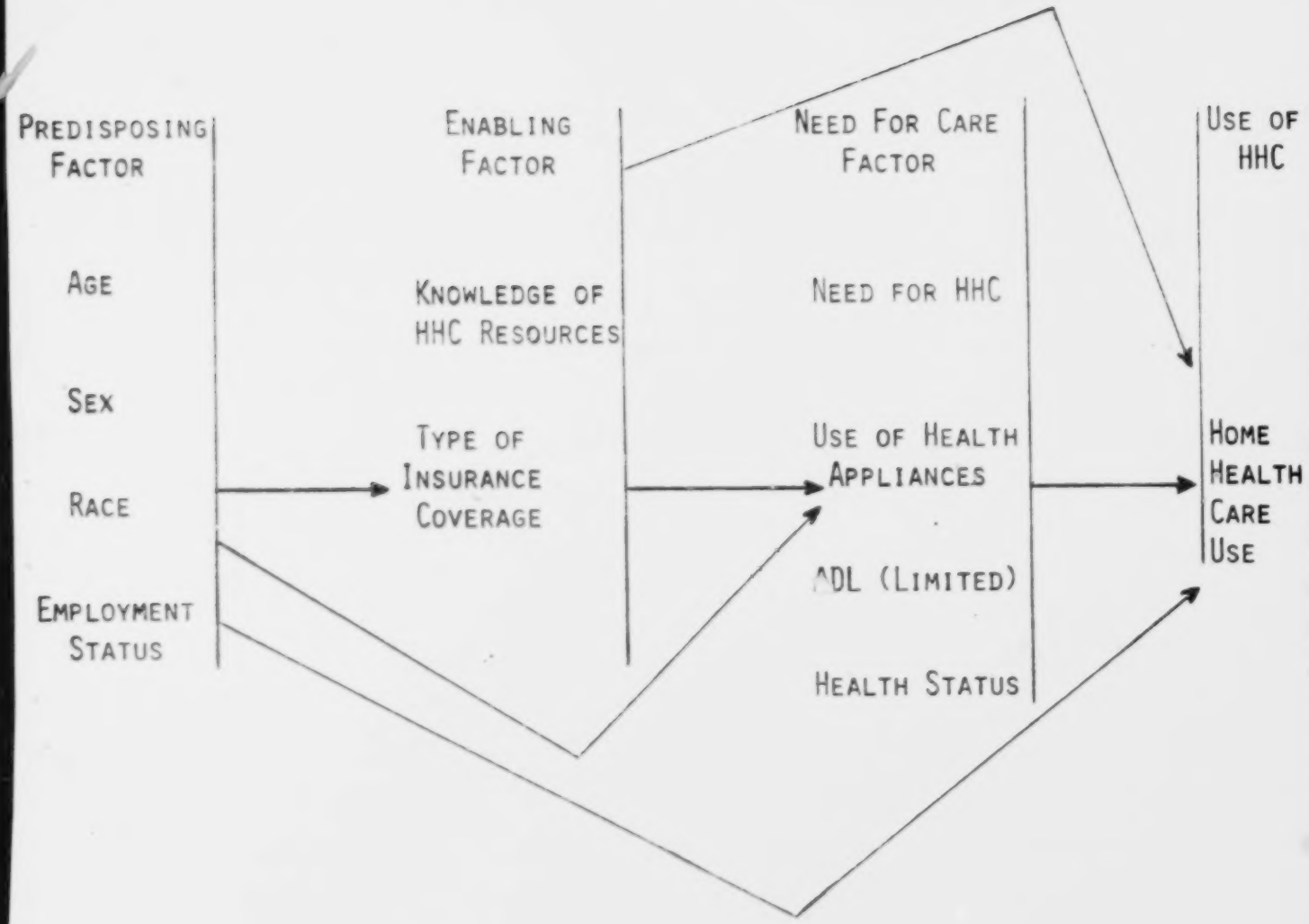

FIGURE 1. BASIC CAUSAL MODEL OF HOME HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION.

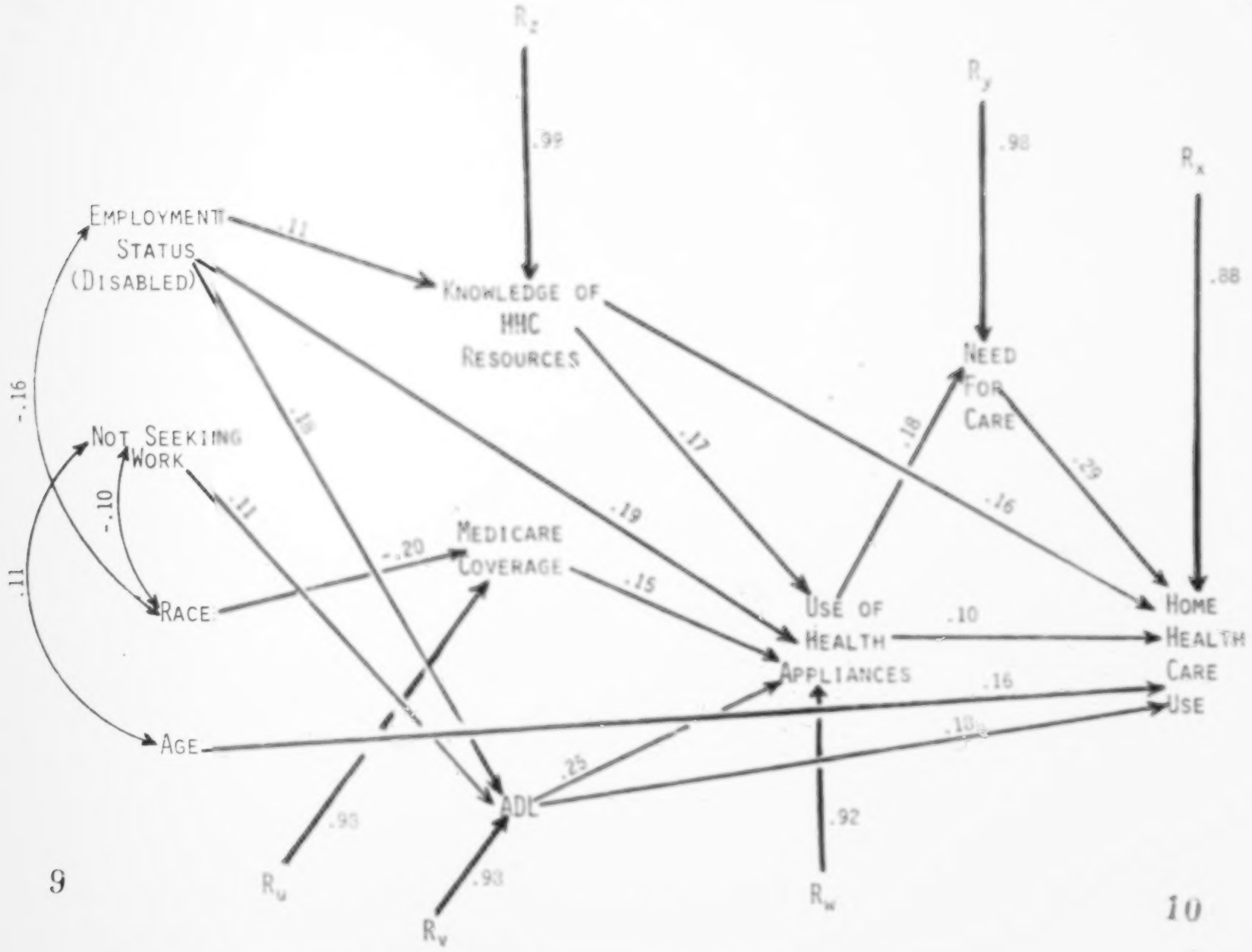
R_z
.99
R_y
.98
R_x
.88
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (DISABLED)
.11
KNOWLEDGE OF HHC RESOURCES
NEED FOR CARE
.18
.29
.16
-.16
NOT SEEKING WORK
-.10
.11
.19
.17
.19
MEDICARE COVERAGE
-.20
.15
RACE
USE OF HEALTH APPLIANCES
.10
HOME HEALTH CARE USE
.16
AGE
.18
ADL
.25
.93
.92
.93
R_u
R_v
R_w

TABLE 1. VARIABLES AND MEASUREMENT

FACTOR I. NEED FOR CARE

QUESTION	RESPONSE CODE
A. CURRENT NEED FOR HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES	A. YES (1) NO (0)
B. USE OF HEALTH APPLIANCES (I.E., WALKER, CANE, ETC.)	B. YES (1) NO (0)
C. ACTIVITY LIMITED DUE TO RECENT ILLNESS (ADL)	C. YES (1) NO (0)
D. HEALTH STATUS	D. EXCELLENT (1) GOOD (2) FAIR (3) POOR (4)

FACTOR II. ENABLING

QUESTION	RESPONSE CODE
A. HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE TO GO FOR HHC	A. YES (1) NO (0)
B. TYPE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE	B. COMPANY PLAN (0) INDIVIDUAL PLAN (1) MEDICARE (1) NONE (1) DON'T KNOW (1)

FACTOR III. PREDISPOSING

QUESTION	RESPONSE CODE
A. SEX	A. FEMALE (0) MALE (1)
B. AGE	B. ACTUAL
C. RACE	C. BLACK (0) WHITE (1)
D. EMPLOYMENT STATUS	D. RETIRED (0) FULL-TIME (1) PART-TIME (1) DISABLED (1) NOT SEEKING WORK (1)

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TABLE 2. ZERO-ORDER CORRELATIONS BETWEEN PREDICTOR VARIABLES AND HOME HEALTH CARE USE AND MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS (N=400).

VARIABLE	ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION	M	SD
AGE	.17*	67.05	.830
SEX	.02	.382	.487
RACE	-.08	.932	.251
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (DISABLED)	-.01	.002	.148
NOT SEEKING WORK	-.01	.025	.156
KNOWLEDGE OF HHC RESOURCES	.20*	.495	.499
TYPE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE	.03	.147	.355
NEED FOR HHC	.33*	.032	.178
USE OF HEALTH APPLIANCES	.28*	.095	.294
ADL (LIMITED DUE TO ILLNESS)	.21*	.463	.160
HEALTH STATUS	.06	2.16	.829

*SIGNIFICANT AT THE .05 LEVEL OR BEYOND.

TABLE 3. DECOMPOSITION OF EFFECTS OF ALL DEPENDENT VARIABLES

DEPENDENT VARIABLES AND PREDICTORS	TOTAL EFFECT (R)	DIRECT EFFECT (B)	INDIRECT EFFECT	SPURIOUS EFFECT	R^2
HOME HEALTH CARE					.22
NEED FOR HHC	.33	.29	.00	.04	
USE FOR HEALTH APPLIANCES	.28	.16	.05	.07	
ADL (LIMITED)	.21	.18	.05	-.02	
KNOWLEDGE OF HHC RESOURCES	.20	.16	.04	.06	
TYPE OF INSURANCE	.17	.16	.00	.01	
NEED FOR HOME HEALTH CARE					.03
USE OF HEALTH APPLIANCES	.18	.18	---	---	
USE OF HEALTH APPLIANCES					.15
ADL (LIMITED)	.25	.25	---	---	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (DISABLED)	.24	.19	.05	---	
KNOWLEDGE OF HHC RESOURCES	.15	.17	---	-.02	
TYPE OF INSURANCE	.15	.15	---	---	
TYPE OF INSURANCE					.11
RACE	-.21	-.20	.01	---	
KNOWLEDGE OF HHC RESOURCE					.01
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (DISABLED)	.11	.11	---	---	
ADL (LIMITED)					.04
DISABLED	.18	.18	---	---	
NOT SEEKING WORK	.11	.11	---	---	

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